

## **GSA ACQUISITION SERVICES AND PRODUCT EVALUATION PROGRAM**

### **1. Do the individual vendors need to conclude negotiations with GSA to place their products onto the schedule?**

Vendors with approved products will need a contract with GSA on IT Schedule 70 in order to provide product listing on SIN 132-62, or be listed by a reseller who has the item listed on SIN 132-62.

### **2. Why does GSA have the responsibility to perform FIPS 201 product evaluation?**

The Evaluation Program directly supports the acquisition process for implementing HSPD-12. OMB Memorandum M-05-24 designates GSA as the "executive agent for Government-wide acquisitions of information technology" under section 5112(e) of the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (40 U.S.C. § 11302(e)). (Ref: OMB M-05-24, Section 5.B.)

### **3. Why are some products/services not represented by a category on the FIPS 201 Product/Service category list?**

There are several products/services that may be necessary for HSPD-12 systems and deployments, but have no normative requirements specified in FIPS 201 and, therefore, are not included in the FIPS 201 Evaluation Program (e.g., integration services, contractor managed services and solutions). Qualification requirements for these services and a list of qualified vendor services are also posted at: <http://www.idmanagement.gov>.

### **4. What is the relationship between GSA and NIST as it pertains to the Product/Service Evaluation Program?**

NIST is the authority for the Standard from which GSA derived the product/service categories and the evaluation criteria for each. The NIST FIPS 201 and FIPS 140 Conformance Testing and Certification are a component of the evaluation process for those categories of products designated to require conformance testing. NIST Conformance Testing and the GSA evaluation process can be conducted simultaneously; however, the product will not be placed on the approved product list until both have been successfully completed. The categories that require NIST certification include the template matcher, template generator, biometric functionality, the card itself, PIV middleware, and the cryptographic functionality.

### **5. The download ZIP file from the GSA FIPS 201 Evaluation Product for these products includes a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) with Atlan Laboratories of McLean, VA. Is Atlan the "Lab" that is referenced in the approval procedure documents associated with these products?**

Yes, Atlan Laboratories is currently GSA's FIPS 201 Evaluation Laboratory.

### **6. On the FIPS 201 Evaluation Program website, vendors are only allowed one user per "logon". The site explains that this is due to "sensitive" and "intellectual" property. Can GSA elaborate on what is meant by "sensitive" and "intellectual property"?**

Sensitive or intellectual property is anything that the vendor feels affects their competitive edge. Examples of this type of data could be the vendor's evaluation criteria, or GSA's evaluation of the vendor's product. A single control point for this type of data prevents inadvertent disclosure to unauthorized individuals. In addition, GSA finds it streamlines information flow.

### **7. Since some companies may have several lines of business administered by different sectors of their organizations, can one user "logon" be applied on a "per line of business" basis?**

There is flexibility in the program for such situations. GSA permits vendors to provide justification for multiple log-on points of contact, where applicable.

**8. If a product is certified in one brand of product, but not another (e.g., a finger print sensor algorithm) will it have to be reevaluated and recertified for the second product?**

No, provided the documentation indicates that this is the same product, e.g. manufacturer and part number are identified and consistent.

**9. Will the participants in the MINEX test receive some sort of letter in which they can pass on to GSA?**

After the successful completion of tests on template generators and template matchers, NIST will post notices to the MINEX Compliant List at the Ongoing MINEX web site <http://fingerprint.nist.gov/minex/>. GSA will consult the MINEX Compliant List as part of the evaluation process.

**10. If a supplier is listed by NIST as having a MINEX compliant template generator (feature extractor) or matcher, does the supplier still have to submit its product (software libraries) to GSA for approval?**

Yes, in order to be included in the Approved Products List, suppliers must submit an application as required for the applicable Approval Procedure.

**11. If a supplier is listed by NIST as having a MINEX compliant template generator (feature extractor) or matcher, will GSA perform any further evaluation of the actual software product libraries/SDK or will GSA limit its evaluation to a review of the application package, attestation and non-disclosure agreement for completeness and accuracy?**

The GSA Evaluation Procedure for Template Generators and Template Matchers has been published at <http://www.idmanagement.gov>. Where documentation meets the requirements outlined in the procedure, no further evaluation is required.

**12. Does GSA plan to evaluate mobile wireless readers for FIPS 201?**

Mobile wireless readers contain a 'reader'; therefore, these products should be submitted against the reader category for evaluation and inclusion on the approved products list.

**13. If a product/service offering is on the SINs, does it need to be on the GSA approved lists?**

All products on the SIN must also be on the GSA Approved Products List. Integration services are not listed on the approved products list; however, they must be qualified by GSA and must commit to delivering only products which have been approved and appear on the Approved Products List. For a listing of approved products and services, then refer to <http://www.idmanagement.gov>.

**14. What is the GSA position on biometric sensor technology from an integration and interoperability perspective?**

GSA categorizes biometric sensor technology by the FIPS 201 use cases. The interoperability issue is already addressed by NIST certifications of template management and template generators. Additional issues concerning the biometric middleware's ability to work with certain sensors are not addressed since biometric middleware is not a category at this time. Currently, middleware-to-sensor interoperability is the responsibility of the agency.

**15. If biometric middleware is not an evaluation category, is not an agency in a situation in which they have to select components from a single vendor?**

The mandate is to have data containers which are exchangeable throughout agencies. Biometric middleware is not considered to fall under this mandate. Agencies may choose to use different middleware-sensor pairing on different projects or at different sites.

**16. Where can the list of product test plans and tested products, interoperability requirements, and the technical specifications be found?**

For information on GSA Evaluation Program: <http://www.idmanagement.gov>.

For information on NIST conformance testing: <http://csrc.nist.gov/npivp/>.

**17. Is it correct to qualify GSA testing as testing NIST-certified products interoperability between each other?**

Not exactly. NIST validates 5 of the 24 FIPS 201 Product/Service categories that are critical to HSPD-12 security and interoperability objectives. GSA validates all categories as defined by FIPS 201 and supporting documentation. Interoperability is one of the goals of the evaluation program.